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106-3812

DD/S&T-4434-66

1 SEP 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Scientific Advisory Panels

1. This memorandum is for your information and describes briefly the general responsibilities of the three existing DCI Scientific Advisory Panels. The composition and the termination dates for individual members is attached.

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2. The Strategic Weapons Intelligence Panel under [REDACTED] is charged with reviewing our evidence and evaluations of both offensive and defensive capabilities primarily in the USSR, but also in China. Their classical concern has been the ICBM and bomber strength problem. More recently, they have broadened into the ABM and submarine threat arena. The Panel is now your panel, with membership selected by you, whereas it used to be a creature of USIB and its nomination process. I would keep it this way. There are now three military members--one from each service, four industrialists, a nuclear weapon design man, and three academic people, who unfortunately do not attend often. It is this academic counterbalance to the military/industrial membership that needs to be strengthened. You should probably review [REDACTED] granting gave us some concern. We also ought to insist (again) on a written report from this group.

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3. The Space Intelligence Panel focuses almost exclusively on Soviet Space activities. It is a vigorous, inquiring group with no historical precedents or personality legacies. Its membership is all well qualified, and the Chairman, [REDACTED] is unusually effective. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] is also on the panel at Adm. Raborn's request, but covers a discipline (i.e. nuclear propulsion) not yet relevant to the Soviet program. This group is self-propelled and serves as a useful sounding board for our space estimates and the difficult projection of the apparent Soviet program.

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4. The Nuclear Intelligence Panel has its roots in the traditional Webster Panel which was charged (by Mr. Dulles) primarily with certifying the OSI estimates of production levels for fissionable materials. When we reorganized it one year ago, we brought in some of the weapons design experts from the Bethe Panel, which had previously reported only to [REDACTED] on weapon test evaluations. With our enlarged group, we cover both production and weapons, for which you are charged with key judgements. Of late they have concentrated equally on the USSR and China. It is an orderly way to bring outside expertise to bear on the nuclear problem and represents an important insurance of our own judgements, which tend to dominate the Community for lack of a qualified nuclear group elsewhere than OSI.

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5. These panels meet at least twice a year; usually in Washington, but occasionally on the West Coast. They consider themselves as advisors to you and look forward to a brief opportunity to meet with you each time they gather in Washington. This is a good opportunity for you and the Agency to promote cordial relations with an influential cross section of the technical community, over and above the value they have for us all as independent insurance and professional stimulation.

[REDACTED]
Albert D. Wheelon
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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Attachment

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